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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/512,817	02/25/2000	Kazuyoshi Kawaguchi	1115-0008-2	6700

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EXAMINER

KUMAR, SRILAKSHMI K

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2675

DATE MAILED: 02/26/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/512,817

Applicant(s)

KAWAGUCHI ET AL.

Examiner

Srilakshmi K. Kumar

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 December 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5-10,13,16-19 and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,4,11,12,14,15 and 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### DETAILED ACTION

The following office action is in response to Amendment A, December 12, 2002. Claims 1, 8, 16 and 17 have been amended, and added new claim 21.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 2, 5-10, 13, 16-19 and 21 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ruckmongathan (Paper, 1988 International Display Research Conference, *A Generalized Addressing Technique for RMS Responding Matrix LCDs*).

As to independent claim 1, Ruckmongathan discloses a driving method for a liquid crystal display device, the method comprising, selecting simultaneously a plurality of lines of row electrode (abstract) in a liquid crystal display device comprising a plurality of row electrodes and a plurality of column electrodes (Ruckmongathan discloses matrix LCD in Introduction, page 80, left col. lines 23-25) and applying predetermined voltages to the selected lines of the row electrode during a selection period (page 80, left col. lines 57-67), wherein, the selection period of a display frame is divided, and column electrodes are driven with a voltage pattern so as to reduce a change of voltage level in each of the divided selection periods (Figs. 1 and 2, abstract, page 81, left column).

As to independent claim 8, limitations of claim 1, and further comprising, a method for a display device having display elements in a matrix form and producing voltage levels for

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effecting a gradation display, the method comprising: setting a time of at least one frame period to be different from that of another frame period (Figs. 1 and 2, T1 and T2), in a plurality of continuous display frames; dividing the selection period of at least one frame in the plurality of display frames into divided selection periods (Figs. 1 and 2, pages 81-82), and providing on-data and off-data in the selection period of the non-divided frame period and the divided selection periods to produce a plurality of voltage levels, and wherein the plurality of voltage levels are used for a display except for the voltage levels in the vicinity of highest and lowest voltage levels (Figs. 1 and 2, pages 81-82).

As to independent claim 16, limitations of claim 1, and further comprising, the driving device comprising a driving means for driving column electrodes according to a predetermined voltage pattern in each period formed by dividing a selection period of a display frame so that the divided selection periods have a different time ratio (Fig. 2, different voltages are shown, V0 to V3).

As to independent claim 17, limitations of claim, and further comprising, a timing control means which forms a combination of at least one of two continuous display frames in which the time ratio of a display frame period to the other is within 50 – 90%, and supplies a timing signal to column drivers for driving column electrodes (Figs. 1 and 2, T1 and T2), so that a selection period of at least one of the two continuous display frames is divided into two portions to produce an n (n: an integer of at least three) number of divided periods (Table 1), a gradation processing means for producing n-bit gradation data based on inputted image data to write the n-bit gradation data in frame memories, and a column data producing means for producing column

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data by reading sequentially the n-bit gradation data which are stored in the frame memories in the respective divided periods and supplying the produced data to the column drivers (page 81).

As to independent claim 21, see limitations of claims 1, 8, 16 and 17.

As to dependent claim 2, limitations of claim 1, see limitations of claim 17, above.

As to dependent claim 5, limitations of claim 2, and further comprising, wherein on-data and off-data are mixed in each of the divided periods in two sets of combination of the two display frames to effect a gradation display by pulse width modulation (Fig. 2, and page 81).

As to dependent claim 6, limitations of claim 1, and further comprising, wherein an imaginary row is formed in addition to the lines of row electrode; a selection period is divided into a plurality of divided periods; a voltage pattern is changed so as to reduce a change point of voltage level applied to column electrodes in the one selection period, and a gradation display is effected by applying voltages to column electrodes according to the changed voltage pattern (page 83, right col. lines 3-20).

As to dependent claim 7, limitations of claim 1, and further comprising, wherein an imaginary row is formed in addition to the lines of row electrode; a selection period is divided uniformly into a plurality of divided periods; a voltage pattern to be applied to column electrodes is determined, and a gradation display is effected by applying voltages to column electrodes with use of a voltage pattern in which there is a single change point of voltage level to be applied to the column electrodes in one selection period (page 83, right col. lines 3-20).

As to dependent claims 9 and 13, limitations of claims 8 and 10, and further comprising, wherein among the plurality of voltage levels, voltage levels in the vicinity of the highest level

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and the lowest level are used relatively rare and voltage levels in an intermediate region are used relatively often (page 81).

As to dependent claim 10, limitations of claim 8, and further comprising, wherein the method is used for driving a liquid crystal display device wherein a multiple line simultaneously selecting method is used (abstract).

As to dependent claim 18, limitations of claim 17, and further comprising, wherein the timing control means produces the timing signal so that the total time to of the continuously displayed two display frames is equal to a time of an input frame to which image data are inputted (Figs. 1 and 2).

As to dependent claim 19, see limitations claims 6 and 7, above.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 3, 4, 11, 12, 14, 15, and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Response to Arguments***

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 8, 16 and 17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Srilakshmi K. Kumar** whose telephone number is **(703) 306 5575**.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Saras, can be reached at (703) 305-9720.

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**

**(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)**

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Srilakshmi K. Kumar whose telephone number is 703 306 5575. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven J. Saras can be reached on 703 305 9720. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703 872 9314 for regular communications and 703 308 9051 for After Final communications.

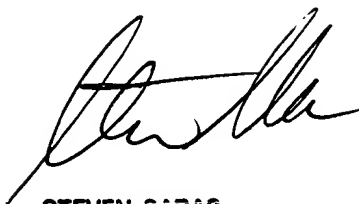
Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 305 4700.

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Srilakshmi K. Kumar  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2675

SKK  
February 23, 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Saras', written in a cursive style.

**STEVEN SARAS**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**  
**TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600**